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SFUND RECORDS CTR
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Author: LUKE CHAVEZ at R8CCPO1
Date: 11/13/97 10:29 AM
Priority: Normal
TO: MAX DODSON at R8CCRA
CC: DOUGLAS SKIE at R8CCPO4
Subject: Ammonium Perchlorate in UT

Keith
FYI
MAX

----- Message Contents -----

There are two main plants that we are aware of in UT that manufacture ammonium perchlorate. One is the Alliant (formerly Hercules) in Magna, UT, and the other is the Western Electrochemical Co. (WECCO) just north of Cedar City, UT. Both are in the production of ammonium perchlorate for rocket fuel cells.

Alliant is currently under the RCRA Subtitle C - Corrective Action authority and is being dealt with by Utah DEQ. Bill Wallner is the Utah RCRA project officer with Terry Brown as EPA's site manager. You are aware there is perchlorate in the groundwater near Alliant and Kennecott's drinking water well is contaminated. Currently, Alliant is working with UDEQ and Kennecott to deal with this plume. Kennecott has supplied bottled water for their workers and with Alliant determine a monitoring schedule for the Kennecott wells. There is no perchlorate found at the Magna city wells, but Magna will monitor quarterly. Alliant will also check on additional offsite wells for sampling. CERCLA has conducted a PA at this site and it was deferred to RCRA pursuant to our policy. It appears that this is currently being handled by Alliant, UDEQ RCRA, and Kennecott with Terry Brown as EPA's contact.

A lot less is known about this site. The WECCO site was moved from Nevada after an explosion in 1988 to just north of Cedar City, UT. This site is listed as a RCRA full generator in RCRIS and not a TSD under Subtitle C. The only information in our RCRA files is an inspection conducted in September, 1991. According to the inspection it is a closed system and UDEQ approved the evaporation pond where the ammonium perchlorate waste water goes to. I am not aware of any further inspections. CERCLA has not been involved at this site. There is no information or sampling that may suggest or show a release of ammonium perchlorate from the WECCO. Further follow up may be needed at this site.

Other potential areas that either that could potentially have ammonium perchlorate problems, are the Thiokol plant west of Brigham City, a rocket manufacturer (no name yet) that was located in Salt Lake City (currently under PA/SI as the Utah Ordnance site), and possibly a rocket test range outside of St. George. It seems we need to check more into these other sites for potential releases of ammonium perchlorate.

This is the only information I came up with and it doesn't cover what other states in our region may have. It would be helpful to hear what the national perspective is from the Division Director's meeting and where we may need to go from here. It sounds like it may be an issue we need to spend time on.

Let me know if you have questions. I'll be going to Salt Lake starting Saturday 11/15 through Wednesday 11/19 so leave me a voice mail message (6512) or call me on my cell phone (941-5745).

Luke